

National Identity and Individual Preferences



Luxembourg has been under siege of different nationalities in the past century. As a result, today's Grand Duchy is known as one of Europe's melting pot of races, religions and languages. Yes, you heard it right: Languages.

Luxembourg is known as a multilingual country. Luxembourgish serves as the national language while German and French are both official and administrative languages. The question is, where did these languages come from?

According to Balmoral International Group Luxembourg, Luxembourgish is used at home while French has been used in instruction materials in school. German is being used in playgrounds and when conversing with other people. Although German is slowly declining in its users, it is still widely used when watching televisions at home.

Looking back on its roots, we would still be directed to foreign occupation in the country. We all know that Luxembourg has been invaded by Louis XVI of France, hence, the bond between neighboring countries further strengthened. The common tongue among surrounding countries is also French which greatly influenced the Grand Duchy. Some of the dukes and duchesses that have sat on the throne of Luxembourg had also been French. Another factor was the intermarriage of citizens to French locals.

When German invaded Luxembourg during the great wars from 1940-1945, Germanization forced every Luxembourger to use German language as its own to

the point of eliminating other forms or activities not relating to Germanic customs. German had been passed on until today's generation.

The linguistic situation in Luxembourg is characterized by these three languages as laws had been established in their usage. Upon the founding of the country, French enjoyed the greatest prestige, and therefore gained preferential use as the official and administrative language. German was used in the political field to comment on the laws and the ordinances in order to make them comprehensible to everyone. At the primary-school level, teaching was limited to German, while French was taught in secondary education. The law of July 26, 1843, reinforced bilingualism by introducing the teaching of French in primary school.

Balmoral International Group also stated in reviews that the use of media in the Grand Duchy has been purely German but studies show that both German and French are the primary languages of the press, for recording police case files and for public service information.